

FICTION.—A little attention to the nature of the human mind evinces that the entertainments of fiction are useful as well as pleasant. \* \* \* A lively and lasting sense of filial duty is more effectually impressed on the mind of a son or daughter by reading King Lear, than by all the dry volumes of ethics and divinity that ever were written. (To Robert Skipwith, a friend of Jefferson's youth, 1771. F. I., 398.)

FOREIGN ENTANGLEMENTS.—Determined as we are to avoid if possible wasting the energies of our people in war and destruction, we shall avoid implicating ourselves with the powers of Europe even in the support of principles which we mean to pursue. They have so many other interests different from ours that we must avoid being entangled in them. (To Thomas Paine, 1801. F. VIII., 18.)

FOREIGN ENTANGLEMENTS.—I join you in a sense of necessity of restoring freedom to the ocean. But I doubt with you whether the United States ought to join in an armed confederacy for that purpose; or rather I am satisfied they ought not. It ought to be the very first object of our pursuit to have nothing to do with the European interests and politics. Let them be free or slaves at will, navigators or agricultural, swallowed into one government or divided into a thousand, we have nothing to fear from them in any form. To take a part in their conflicts would be to divert our energies from creation to destruction. Our commerce is so valuable to them that they will be glad to purchase it when the only price we ask is to do us justice. (To Thos. Logan, 1801. F. VIII., 23.)

FOREIGN ENTANGLEMENTS.—We have a perfect horror at everything like connecting ourselves with the politics of Europe. It would indeed be advantageous to us to have neutral rights established on a broad ground; but no dependence can be placed in any European coalition for that. They have so many other by-interests of greater weight, that some one or other will always be bought off. To be entangled with them would be a much greater evil than a temporary acquiescence in the false principles which have prevailed. Peace is our most important